

The author, a recognized authority on the subject of blood disease, has realized that there is a great need for a small book for practitioners to consult at a moment's notice the correct treatment of any disease of the hæmopoietic system.

The first chapters deal with the anæmias, and include the anæmias of infancy, and then the various types met with in adults.

Prescribing for anæmias without first knowing with what type one is dealing, has become such a common and dangerous practice that one wonders why such an authority as this does not lay more emphasis on the blood investigation in pernicious anæmia. It is true that he recommends it to be done, but one would like to have seen more about the blood-film findings and Van den Bergh reaction.

The leukæmias have a section to themselves, and then the rarer conditions such as polycythæmia, Gaucher's disease, other splenic disorders, agranulocytosis, etc., are summarized.

The book can be thoroughly recommended to the busy practitioner who can only afford the minimum time to refresh his memory of blood diseases.

—H. H. S.

**VITAL CARDIOLOGY.** By Bruce Williamson, M.D. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1934. pp. 337. Price 15s. net.

THIS attractively produced book presents a study of the heart and circulation from a different aspect from that from which one is accustomed to see the subject approached. The author applies physiological and mechanized principles to his study of heart failure and its prevention. He has come to the conclusion that there is need for a new outlook on cardiology which deals primarily with the two essentials of rate and force.

Part one of the book deals with the broad principles of this rate and force theory, and any statements made are usually followed up by a logical argument. One, however, is not impressed by such statements as "The heart has no intelligence." Surely there must be a more scientific explanation of the tachycardia of heart failure than this!

Part two of the book deals with the individual conditions met with in heart cases. Tachycardia is discussed, and several original and useful tests for its significance are suggested. In the other chapters a good deal of controversial matter appears; for example, few would admit that resting the rheumatic heart favours the production of mitral stenosis on the principle that fibrosis follows in any part of the body immobilized; or again, there are few who would take the author's advice and encourage exercise in a child stricken with a rheumatic heart, even though it was quiescent, in the hope that the myocardium would hypertrophy and prevent mitral stenosis.

The last two parts in this volume are devoted to "Symptoms" and "Treatment" respectively, and they show the author to be a keen and accurate clinical observer.

The book is well written and easy to read, and has been written primarily for the general practitioner.

—H. H. S.

**ADVICE TO THE EXPECTANT MOTHER ON THE CARE OF HER HEALTH.** By F. J. Browne, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.E., F.C.O.G. 1934. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. Third Edition. Price 2s. 6d. net.

ANTE-NATAL treatment has in recent years assumed an ever-increasing importance in the eyes of obstetricians. This booklet is an endeavour to present its more important aspects in a lucid manner to the laywoman, and to aid her in the proper conduct of pregnancy. The author emphasizes his belief that nine out of ten cases of abnormal pregnancy and labour can be prevented by adequate ante-natal care, and if this were realized by pregnant women the incidence of maternal and foetal mortality would be greatly reduced. The teaching of this book is sound and its advice excellent,